

“Supreme Law of the Land” Using the Constitution

Identify which **amendment** would be used to answer the following questions. Then, provide a short explanation of how you would answer each question based on the meaning of each amendment. For example, if the answer to the first question is “yes”, what words in the amendment allowed you to answer it that way? Be specific with your answer! All government actions and laws are based on the words of the Constitution – the “supreme law of the land”!

1. Can slavery exist in the United States?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

2. A person is speeding and driving recklessly. The police want to search the car for alcohol or drugs that they believe might be causing the driver to be reckless. Can the police search the car?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

3. Timmy is found guilty of breaking into his neighbor’s house. His punishment is to have his wrists slashed with broken glass and to be hung upside down until 24 ounces of blood is drained from his body. Can this punishment be carried out?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

4. A Native American tribe wants to smoke an illegal drug as part of a traditional religious ceremony. Do they have the right to use this substance for religious purposes?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

5. A 46-year old Chinese-American , who is a U.S. citizen, is told they cannot register to vote because they are not “white”. Is this true?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

6. A homeless man is accused of a crime and put on trial. He has no money to pay for a lawyer and told he must represent himself in court since he can’t pay for an attorney. Can this happen?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

7. The state of Nevada wants to make the speed limit on the highways within the state 85 miles per hour. Can the state pass this law?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

8. A high school student claims they have the right to wear any type of clothing they want and that dress codes are “unconstitutional”. Do school officials have the power to tell students what to wear?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

9. A married father with four children stands on a busy street corner each day and shouts out racist slogans at passing cars. Can he do this?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

10. A student wants to sue a classmate for stealing their history homework and have the case heard in court by a jury. Do they have the right to have this case heard in court?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

11. A new army base is being built next to your community and the soldiers need a place to stay until the construction is finished. Can they stay in your house?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

12. The state of Texas passes a law that says all single women under the age of 30 cannot vote. Is this law unconstitutional?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

13. A group of radical college students gather to protest against the President and the Iraq War in front of the White House. Can they get away with this act of criticizing the government?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

14. A newspaper writes a story about a senator from New Hampshire who was taking money from lumber companies to “encourage” him to help pass a law that would allow these companies to cut down trees in a national park. Can the paper run this controversial story?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

15. The police have a search warrant to check your computer for illegally downloaded music files. Can they seize your computer as evidence?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____

16. The police take you in for questioning about the illegal files they found on your computer. You are asked to answer questions about the files. Do you have to answer the questions?

Amendment: _____ **Answer/Reasoning:** _____
